



File Code: 1950/2210

Date: DEC 30 2013

Dear Interested Party:

Thank you for your interest in the Ely Westside Rangeland Project. We recently completed a Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the project. The Draft Supplement, as well as other documents associated with this project, is available on the project's web site at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/htnf/elywestrange>. The Draft Supplement is also available on CD-ROM or in hard copy upon request.

In September 2011, the Forest Service distributed a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and a Record of Decision (ROD) on the Ely Westside Rangeland Project. While considering an appeal on the ROD, Forest Supervisor Jeanne Higgins concluded that additional clarification in the FEIS was desirable and decided to withdraw the ROD. To provide that additional clarification, a Draft Supplement to the FEIS has been prepared. The Draft Supplement includes new and/or additional information on several matters discussed in the FEIS, including:

- Information on how livestock numbers for the allotments was selected;
- Adjustment of the streambank alteration levels that would be applied;
- Additional detail on the monitoring plan;
- Additional information on the rationale for opening the Troy Mountain Allotment.

To make the Draft Supplement easier to review, the Draft Supplement includes all the information from the FEIS along with the new and/or additional information inserted in ***bold and italicized*** text.

I am the Responsible Official for this project, and based on the analysis presented in the Draft Supplement and the 2011 FEIS, I am considering choosing Alternative 1 (Proposed Action) for implementation. My final decision will be documented in a Record of Decision based on the 2011 FEIS and the Final Supplement to the 2011 FEIS.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provides for a 45-day public comment period for the Draft Supplement. Comments on the Draft Supplement should be specific to the supplemental information being provided and address the adequacy of the document and the merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3).

This project implements the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (as amended) and is subject to 36 CFR 218.7 parts (a) and (b). Instead of an appeal period, there will be an objection process before the final decision is made and after the Final Supplement to the 2011 FEIS and draft decision are mailed (reference 36 CFR 218). In order to be eligible to file an objection, specific written comments related to the project must be submitted during the comment period on the Draft Supplement in accordance with procedures in 40 CFR 1506.10, and any other periods during which written comment is specifically requested on this EIS (218.5).



Individual members of organizations must have submitted their own comments to meet the requirements of eligibility as an individual. Objections received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only. Names and addresses of those who comment and/or file objections will become part of the public record.

For more information on how the objection process works for projects and activities implementing land and resource management plans and the requirements, contact Vernon Keller at (775) 355-5356 or at vkeller@fs.fed.us or you may read the regulations under 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B on the National Forest Service web site at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-03-27/pdf/2013-06857.pdf>.

How to Comment and Timeframe: Specific written comments (36 CFR 218.2) on this action will be accepted for 45 calendar days following the publication of a Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplement in the Federal Register. The publication date in the Federal Register is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

To provide comments on the Draft Supplement, please go to: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/htnf/elywestrange>. Electronic comments may also be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to comments-intermt-n-humboldt-toiyabe-ely@fs.fed.us. For email, please enter Ely Westside Rangeland Draft Supplement in the subject line. Electronic comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments.

Written comments must be submitted to Vernon Keller, Range NEPA Coordinator, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431. Alternatively, comments may be submitted by facsimile at (775) 355-5399. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Hand-delivered copies may be left at the address listed above or at the Ely Ranger District Office, 825 Avenue East, Ely, NV 89301.

Oral comments must be provided at the Range NEPA Coordinator's office during normal business hours via telephone (775-355-5356) or in person.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Vernon Keller at (775) 355-5356 or at vkeller@fs.fed.us. Thank you again for your interest in management of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM A. DUNKELBERGER
Forest Supervisor